

TORONTO CHAPTER E-SPECIFIER

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Relationships! To me, this is what makes life worthwhile actually, wonderful at times! As a technical sales representative and now the Chair, I meet and talk with many people. Even better if I am talking with a glass of wine in my hands!

How many times have I heard, "If you can't have fun at work, then I don't want that job"... or something like that! People, relationships with people are what make work fun, and ultimately make you good at your job, and want to stay at your job!

This weekend I had to buy a new bed. I did extensive research on the web, but what ultimately convinced me to buy the bed was the sales representative. She was super easy to talk to, fun to talk with, and really knew her product; she even gave a discount without being asked. Additionally, there was no pressure to buy immediately, and even offered to call the bed manufacturer on Monday to answer some of our questions. We started walking out, but then both looked at each other and said, 'I think this is as good as it gets.'

I think we felt assured from her that we were making the correct decision and her knowledge on the product made me feel like it was a good purchase. Why didn't I buy from the web? I really did not get any additional information on the product, but she sold me on her service. She made a connection with us that the web or a computer could not!

People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing. Relationships/people are what create that enjoyment! I don't know about you, but I do not have "fun" at ATM machines, but I can have a great laugh with a bank teller! Deep, eh?! LOL!

Stacey Bogdanow, CTR
Chapter Chair

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The CSC Board of Directors meeting was held in Toronto this past September. It was great to see all of the Directors and Executive Council from across the country. Even better were the discussions and different viewpoints that were expressed throughout the weekend. This is what CSC is. Bringing together everyone who has a hand in building amazing buildings, to collaborate to create a stronger CSC family and construction community. Thank you to President Kelly Sawatsky, and the rest of the Executive Council for your hard work and steady leadership.

There are several initiatives to report on:

- Coming off the amazing experience of Conference 2025 in St John's, Newfoundland, work is well underway for the 2026 conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba on May 20-24, 2026. Registration is open on the CSC DCC website.
- Future conferences are set for London, ON (2027), Kelowna, BC (2028) and Toronto, ON (2029). Conference 2030 bids are to be considered at the next board of directors meeting in January 2026.
- Call for chapter awards, national awards and 4th VP nominations will be coming out this fall, closing in February.
- The search for the new Executive Director is underway. The posting has been closed and there have been a large number of applicants, which are currently being sorted, and follow ups scheduled. We will miss Nick Franjic's steady hand, but I'm looking forward to coming alongside the new Executive Director and seeing what new ideas they can bring to this Association.
- The Association newsletter was sent out to members in September 2025, as a way to communicate directly with the membership, in addition to communication through the various chapters.
- Volunteers are the backbone of CSC. Whether it's at the chapter level or the national level, we are always looking for passionate and knowledgeable volunteers to lend your voice, experience and perspective. If you are looking to volunteer at the Chapter level, please contact Stacey Bogdanow, the CSC Toronto Chapter Chair. At the Association level, please fill out the Committee Volunteer Questionnaire here [<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9NQP7S6>]
- Several CCDC documents have now been ratified by CSC and will be published shortly.
- The new PCD course manual is being finalized and will be ready by Spring 2026. Other course manuals will be subsequently updated.
- The mentorship program is up and running. If you are interested in signing up as a mentee or a mentor, please reach out to David Graham at graham.architecture@gmail.com



The next board of directors meeting is at the end of January 2026. As always, if you have any questions, or concerns regarding the work that the Association is doing, please feel free to contact me.

KIYOSHI KUROIWA, CCCA

Toronto Chapter Director

TREASURER'S UPDATE

As Treasurer, I am typically called upon to provide a financial update at the start of each new fiscal year and again in September, when our dinner meetings and CSC programs resume.

Although I missed the September Specifier deadline, it was fortunately not a major concern, as there was little to report over the summer aside from our very successful CSC Golf Tournament held in August.

Now that we're well into the fall, I'm pleased to share a more detailed update.

First and foremost, our financial assets remain securely invested in one-year term deposits with TD Canada Trust and the Bank of Nova Scotia. Our ongoing goal is to ensure the CSC Toronto Chapter has sufficient reserves to remain financially stable for up to three years — even in the event of unforeseen challenges such as another pandemic. At present, we have achieved approximately 70% of that target.

In keeping with our commitment to providing valuable programs and opportunities for our members, planning is already well underway for our 2025 and 2026 activities — including educational sessions, monthly dinner meetings with engaging presentations, the annual golf tournament, social events, and our flagship Building Expo Trade Show to be held on February 25, 2026.

The Chapter Executive recently approved the preliminary fiscal year expense budget, which establishes clear program-specific allocations for each initiative and Executive Committee activity. Working together with our Chapter Director, Chair, and Vice-Chair, we have also developed a new internal financial tracking tool. This will enable us to more accurately assess and report our financial position — both overall and by program — on a quarterly basis to the Executive Committee.

I am honoured to serve as your acting Treasurer and look forward to hearing your ideas on how we can continue to engage members and strengthen participation in our events.

Thank you for your confidence and support — and special thanks to the Executive Committee and our accounting partners at HFPC, who have been instrumental in helping us enhance our financial tracking abilities since the start of this fiscal year.

Warm regards,

ROGER ALI

Treasurer, CSC Toronto Chapter





ENGINEERING UPDATE

November already — this year has flown by with all the excellent events hosted by our CSC Toronto Chapter (CSCTC). These events remind me why we volunteer: to support one another and stay connected as a community. I am happy to continue serving as your CSC Engineering Officer for the 2025–2026 term.

CSCTC and CSC Grand Valley Chapter are pleased to share exciting progress and momentum surrounding the Student Design Competition (SDC) for the 2024-2025 year, highlighting expanding academic partnerships, student engagement, and program development.

Complete contest requirements, details, updates and pertinent links will be posted on the “Tapping the Future” Student Design Challenge website: www.cscdesignchallenge.ca. We saw a strong outreach and participation from post-secondary architecture and design programs. We held presentations at George Brown College, University of Waterloo School of Architecture, and Fanshawe College. University of Waterloo is expanding its curriculum to a full semester architecture program and will incorporate the SDC into their program. Students expressed valuable feedback and shared appreciations for CSC’s involvement, noting the valuable insight into specifications and career pathways that extend beyond classroom learning.

This year’s competition showcased 17 submissions, which were reviewed by four judges from the design and construction industry. The top five finalists were:

- 1st Place: Kaleidoscope – Samantha Heipel, Sameera Amodwala (George Brown College)
- 2nd Place: Steamline – Ali Hasan, Amra Alagic, Nhuy Cindy Ma, Mahara Falif (University of Waterloo, School of Architecture)
- 3rd Place: The Canvas District – Lilian Lieu, Kayla Simpson (George Brown College)
- 4th Place: OTO KNO ME Collective – Megan Ambas (George Brown College)
- 5th Place: Boutique Hotel Ancestry – Patricia Torres Suquilanda (George Brown College)

Stop by the CSCTC Building Expo on February 25th, 2026 to view the top five submissions, and chat with the students about their work.

This year, we will continue working to enhance the SDC website to make it more interactive, informative, and user-friendly. Stay tuned for updates.

If you have any new ideas or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to reach out – I’d be happy to discuss them with you further.

KARTHICK KANAGALINGAM CTR, WELL AP, M.SC. ENG,

Karthick.kanagalingam@somfy.com

Engineering Officer



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Welcome back to another season of CSC Toronto Chapter Dinner Meetings!

Kevin and Charles are thrilled to be back for another exciting year of educational and networking events.

Our September 2025 dinner meeting was a great success, with 70 attendees, including four first-time guests. A big thank-you

to our presenter, Greg Hersen from Torkin Manes' Construction Law Group, for an excellent presentation on construction defects, specification drafting errors, and lessons learned from real construction failures. Attendees gained valuable insight into how to avoid common mistakes and reduce potential liability.

Shout out to V-SPECS for the table top display — thank you, V-SPECS!

And another thank-you to V-SPECS and WR Meadows for generously donating our door prizes.

Our October 2025 dinner meeting was another success, with 48 attendees, including five first-timers. We were pleased to welcome Alex Grams from Dialog, who delivered an informative presentation on Radon Mitigation. Alex explained what radon is, where it comes from, and why it poses a health risk. He also discussed design strategies to reduce radon exposure in new buildings, best practices for various building types, and shared real project examples.

A big THANK YOU to DRE Industries for the table top display! And another thank-you to Mapei for the wonderful donation for the door prizes. We encourage anyone interested in supporting future dinner meetings by donating prizes to contact us. It's a great way to promote your company, support our events, and add to the fun for attendees. If you would like to get involved or learn more, do not hesitate to reach out!

Looking ahead, November 2025 will feature our annual Plant Tour, hosted this year by **York Marble Tile & Terrazzo Inc.** Founded in 1949 by the Bortolotti Family and acquired in 1999 by the Pestrin Family, York Marble is a Canadian leader in natural and engineered stone. Their 75,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility houses over \$3.5 million in inventory and features state-of-the-art fabrication equipment, making them one of Canada's largest and most diverse stone fabricators. Employing more than 150 skilled professionals, York Marble has contributed to landmark projects such as the Toronto Eaton Centre, Four Seasons Hotel, New Toronto Courthouse, and 16 York Street. This year's plant tour will give participants an exclusive opportunity to walk through the facility and observe each stage of the stone manufacturing process.

January 2026 – Charles and Kevin are already working on the next exciting event — more information to come soon.

Finally, we'd like to extend our sincere thanks to all the members, students, and guests who have attended our Chapter Dinners so far this season. Your continued support and engagement are what make these events so successful. As always, we welcome suggestions for future technical presentation topics. Please feel free to contact us directly.

We are CSC!

CHARLES BOSWORTH & KEVIN BECESSAR

Program Committee Officers, CSC Toronto Chapter

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

TORONTO CHAPTER EVENTS

NOVEMBER 18, 2025

[PLANT TOUR: York Marble](#)

JANUARY 13th, 2026

Dinner Meeting – Cricket
Club

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Dinner Meeting – Cricket
Club

April 14, 2026

Dinner Meeting – Fantasy
Farms

May 5, 2026

Dinner Meeting – Fantasy
Farms

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2026,

11AM-6PM, Metro Toronto

Convention Centre, South

Building, L800:

[48TH CSC TORONTO CHAPTER
BUILDING EXPO](#)



48TH CSC TORONTO CHAPTER BUILDING EXPO

Every year, I look forward to the Building Expo, the epitome of what CSC is. Manufacturers, suppliers, architects, specification writers, and engineers coming together to see new products and learn different ways to create amazing built environments. Building Expo is not only a trade show, but it is the gathering of a community. As your new Building Expo Chair, I'm humbled to step into this long history of the Building Expo.

Preparations are well underway for the 48th annual Building Expo. The Building Expo subcommittee is looking at different options to enhance the exhibitor and attendee experience. The Building Expo doesn't happen without the dedicated subcommittee team behind the Building Expo Chair, so I sincerely thank all the volunteers throughout the years.

Building off the success of last year's show, we will continue to streamline the on-site registration process. This year, we will be using Eventbrite for all registrations, including exhibitor tables, sponsorships and the luncheon. We are looking to open up registration by the end of November, so look out for the registration announcements. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me. See you on February 25, 2026 for a show to remember.

KIYOSHI KUROIWA, CCCA

Building Expo Subcommittee Chair





THANK YOU !

TO OUR 2025/2026 SPONSORS

Pinnacle



Premier



Classic



Design Consultant / Partner



VICE CHAIR / SPECIFICATIONS OFFICER UPDATE

The topic of tariffs has been a significant point of discussion since our neighbour's announcement on April 2, 2025. Many have wondered if it was a belated April Fool's joke, leading to widespread speculation and uncertainty within the industry. Amidst this confusion, it is reassuring to see a national joint committee, such as the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC), addressing these concerns. The CCDC, which includes various nationally recognized organizations, industry legal representatives, and construction owner representatives from both the public and private sectors, has released bulletins to clarify the situation. CSC is one of the four national organizations that

form part of this committee. Please refer to [CCDC Bulletin 29 – Adjustments in Contract Price](#) due to tariffs for more information.

This year's Peer Discussion Group (PDG) will focus on the theme of "Communication". We will explore the effectiveness and quality of communication from the perspectives of Contract Administration, Specifications Writing, and Technical Representation. Topics will include the chain of command during construction, various forms of communication, interactions between stakeholders, networking, and different types of meet-ups.



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We had a fantastic turnout for the social event on October 9th, where we celebrated the rich history of tequila, mezcal, and authentic Mexican cuisine. A big thank you to the social sub-committee for organizing such an amazing evening. Spending time at Harbourfront with great food and even better company is always a delight.

Stay tuned for more updates.

KENNY TAM

Vice-Chair, Specifications Officer and Peer Discussions Group Subcommittee Co-chair



WINTER IS THE PERFECT TIME TO EARN YOUR CTR

To my fellow Manufacturer/Suppliers. As winter rolls in, it's a great time to shift gears and invest in your professional growth. If you work for a manufacturer or supplier in the construction industry, here's a powerful move to consider, earning your Certified Technical Representative (CTR) designation.

The CTR isn't just another credential — it's proof that you bring more to the table. Earning your CTR shows you understand construction products, can present with confidence, and know how the industry really works. In a competitive market, that kind of value stands out.

For professionals, the CTR strengthens your expertise and builds trust with customers and Architects. For employers, it elevates your team's credibility and positions your company as a knowledgeable, reliable partner.

A CTR demonstrates you know how to interpret specs, manage substitutions, support warranty discussions, and create the documents that keep projects moving smoothly.

This winter, consider taking the first step. It's a smart investment in your career, your company's reputation, and the clients who count on you.

JOSH TREVISAN, CTR
Manufacturer/Supplier Officer



"This winter, consider taking the first step. It's a smart investment in your career, your company's reputation, and the clients who count on you."



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please welcome our newest Members!

Mark Walsh

- Prelco

Wanchen Sun

- VanAir

Jeremy Gardstein

- Hadrian Solutions ULC

Jeff Harbach

- Kenaidan Contracting

Ivan Davalos Ocampo

- Elastochem Specialty Chemical Inc.

Mike Muldoon

- BPS Group Inc.

Milton Greenstein

- Situra Inc.

Alvin Vane

- Norr Architects & Engineers Ltd.

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In-Person Dinner Meeting Locations (check event calendar):

1. Fantasy Farm Event Venue
50 Pottery Rd, Toronto, ON M4K 2M2
2. Toronto Cricket Skating and Curling Club
141 Wilson Ave, Toronto, ON M5M 3A3

COMMENTS?

If you have comments or suggestions, or would like more information about the eSpecifier, please reach out to Laura Herbert at lherbert@dialogdesign.ca.